

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 2-5, 10 and 12-20 have been allowed, claims 6-8 and 11 have been rejected and claims 1, 6, 9 and 18 have been objected to. The allowance of claims 2-5, 10 and 12-20 and the conditional allowance of claim 9 are gratefully acknowledged. The rejection of claims 6-9 and 11 is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite allowance of the objected to claim 9, Applicant hereby cancels claims 6-8 and 11, and rewrites claims 9 in independent for to include all of the limitations of claim 6 from which it depends.

Objections

Claims 1, 6 and 18 were objected to because of the informality of using "LLID" without explaining the term. Per the Examiner's suggestion, the claim language in claims 1 and 18 is changed to "Logical Link Identification (LLID)". Claim 6 is cancelled.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 6-8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toyoda (6,647,210) in view of Blahut (6,807,188). With the cancellation of claims 6-8, their rejection becomes moot. The dependency of claim 11 is changed to depend now from claim amended claim 9, which is allowable. Therefore, claim 11 is similarly allowable.

In view of the remarks above it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 9 and 11 are now allowable in addition to allowed claims 2-5, 10 and 12-20. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

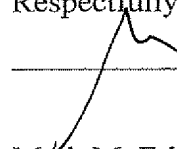
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Respectfully submitted,



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